

REMARKS

This is to acknowledge that Claims 7, 21, 35, and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as a result of a conflict between the terms of those claims and the claims from which they depend. In this regard, it is noted that misstatements existed in the latter claims, but those misstatements have been corrected by the foregoing amendments. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the deficiencies under 35 U.S.C. 112 have been overcome.

Many of the claims were also rejected as being anticipated by the cited Lund patent, while the remainder were rejected as being obvious in view of a hypothetical combination of Lund and the cited Fujii patent. By means of the foregoing amendments, however, the claims are now presented in a manner which is believed to be patentably distinct over those references. Particularly, as now claimed, the preliminary ejection operation according to Applicants' invention is effected once or twice during a preliminary ejecting operation. In Lund, however, the intent is to provide, for example, 10 drops per nozzle every 5 seconds (see the paragraph bridging columns 5 and 6). This concept is different from Applicants' claimed concept of providing one or two ejections during each preliminary ejecting operation.

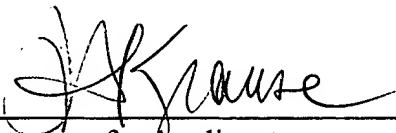
Referring again to Lund, therefore, if the 10 ejections per 5 seconds are performed in a single preliminary ejecting operation, the dots found on the print media would be noticeable, wherefore it will be appreciated that the operation and result of Lund is distinct from the invention claimed by Applicants. Further in this regard, it is noted that

the Fujii patent does not overcome the above-mentioned deficiencies of Lund as a rejecting reference.

For all of these various reasons, a formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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